

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend original claims 1-9 as follows:

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1. A method for rolling a metal strip in a skin-pass rolling stand for reducing the metal strip's thickness wherein the strip enters and exits the rolling stand at a determined velocity with the being under tension, comprising setting the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand independently of the tension in the metal strip.
  2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the metal strip is reduced by between about 0.1% and 5%.
  3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of the metal strip is reduced by between about 0.1% and 1%.
  4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising setting the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand by the ratio of a desired thickness of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand to the thickness of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand.
  5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling the setting of the strip entry velocity by a controller for controlling the setting of the strip exit velocity to which a set value for the respective velocities is fed to the controller, and further wherein the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-

pass rolling stand and the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand are set as a ratio of the desired thickness of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand to the thickness of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising correcting the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of a measured value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and of a measured value for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand.

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*with*  
7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising correcting the set value for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of a temporal mean of measured values for the velocity of the metal strip when it enters the skin-pass rolling stand and of a temporal mean of measured values for the velocity of the metal strip when it exits the skin-pass rolling stand.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising setting a roll nip in the skin-pass rolling stand as a function of the tension in the metal strip upstream of the skin-pass rolling stand and as a function of the tension in the metal strip downstream of the skin-pass rolling stand.

9. A skin-pass rolling stand for use in rolling a metal strip in accordance with the method of claimed 1, comprising a means for setting the strip entry velocity

*is amended*

independently of the tension in the metal strip, and a means for setting the strip exit velocity independently of the tension in the metal strip.—

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A "Version With Marked Changes Made" is submitted herewith.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 1 by deleting the reference "22" and substituting "14"; deleting " $\tau_w$ " and substituting " $\tau_i$ "; and deleting " $v^*(1-E)$ " and substituting " $v^*(1-e)$ ".